



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (16-4779)

Attachments: [Audio](#)

Call to Order.

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Present: Vice Chair Alex Johnson, Gabriella Holt, Don Meredith and Jose Osuna

Absent: Chair Carol Chodroff

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approve Minutes for the meeting of August 17, 2016. (16-4205)

On motion of Member Osuna, seconded by Member Holt, the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group approved the August 17, 2016 Minutes:

Ayes: 4 - Vice Chair Alex Johnson, Gabriella Holt, Don Meredith and Jose Osuna

Absent: 1 - Chair Carol Chodroff

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

2. Meeting Schedule and Location Update. (16-4206)

Commission Staff provided an update in regards to the changes to the meeting schedule. Member Holt and Vice Chair Johnson informed the Working Group that they would not be available at the next meeting scheduled for September 28, 2016.

Attachments: [Meeting Schedule 10-12-16](#)

3. Town Hall Meetings - Schedule and Location. (16-4014)

Commission Staff confirmed member attendance for each Town Hall meeting and informed the Working Group that a location still needed to be secured for the First District Town Hall meeting on October 25, 2016.

Attachments: [Town Hall Meeting Schedule as of 10-12-16](#)

II. OVERSIGHT ASSESSMENT: Review of Previous Presentations

4. Discussion of the information obtained from last meeting's presentations, pending reports and next steps. (16-3493)

Vice Chair Johnson provided an overview of the last meeting presentations and suggested that Inspector General Max Huntsman be extended an invitation to return to the Working Group for a follow-up presentation. The Working Group members greatly appreciated the information regarding Adult Probation and AB 109 provided by Deputy Chief Reaver Bingham.

III. STATUS REPORTS/UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

5. Reports and/or updates by the Interim Chief Probation Officer and/or staff. (16-3142)

Interim Chief Remington informed the Working Group that the new Chief Probation Officer would be announced in the coming weeks and that Dave Mitchell was promoted to Acting Deputy Chief. Interim Chief Remington informed of the positive changes being made within the Department and stressed the need for continuity and stability while changes are being enacted. Interim Chief Remington also provided updates on upcoming projects and initiatives within the Department, and highlighted the remodeling of Camp Scott.

Attachments: [Report](#)

6. Review of existing Probation-related Commissions, Committees and Agencies; Matrix overview of roles and responsibilities; and discussion of the presentation schedule and other related matters. (16-3149)

There were none.

Attachments: [Probation-related Commissions and Agencies List](#)
[Probation Dept - Matrix Overview Roles and Responsibilities](#)

7. Update on the second Status Report to the Board of Supervisors by the Chief Executive Office; and discussion regarding preparation for the meeting with the Board Deputies at their County Agenda Review (CAR) meeting on September 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (16-4213)

Anna Hom-Wong, Chief Executive Office, informed the Working Group that the Agenda for the Deputies' Public Safety Cluster Agenda Review meeting would be released on Friday, September 16th and that she will email the agenda to all Members upon receipt.

Attachments: [Status Report to Board](#)

8. Discussion of and processes for review of the "Working Document Recommendations" which contain draft recommendations and/or comments of the Working Group Members and/or other sources relating to the creation of a Probation Oversight Commission. (16-3746)

The Working Group revised Section V. E, which to read: "The Oversight Commission Must Have Access to Complete Files to the Extent as Permitted by Law to Conduct its Oversight Work." The remainder of the discussion of the Working Document was tabled for the next meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 1:51 p.m. and reconvened at 1:59 p.m., with all Members present.

Attachments: [Working Document Recommendations 9-13-16](#)

IV. PRESENTATIONS - 2:00 P.M.

9. Presentation by Fabian Debora, Director of Substance Abuse Treatment and Programs, and Founder and Director of La Clase Art Academy. (16-4207)

Fabian Debora, Director of Substance Abuse Treatment and Programs, and Founder and Director of La Clase Art Academy, presented two video clips and provided a brief introduction of himself and his artwork. Mr. Debora responded to the prepared questions provided by the Working Group beforehand. Mr. Debora stressed the importance of those with "cultural competency" entering the camps and engaging the youths, indicating that people with the same life experience are more readily able to reach probation youths. Mr. Debora explained how imperative it is to have wrap-around services in place from camp to re-entry in order to keep recidivism rates low. By concentrating on having outside community activities such as art, sports, and music, many youths can be saved from entering the criminal justice system. Mr. Debora also stressed the importance of role models from the community interacting with the youth. Mr. Debora

indicated that Probation Staff follow protocol and policy yet remain out of touch with the needs of the youth they encounter. Vice Chair Johnson's inquired what can be done to better serve the youth in Probation camps. Mr. Debora responded that allowing individuals that have come through the Probation system themselves and have successfully turned their lives around would do much to show the youth that there is a way out of the criminal justice system. Mr. Debora answered additional questions posed by the Members of the Working Group.

Attachments: [Questions for Fabian Debora](#)

10. Presentation on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:

Sharon Harada, Probation Dept. Bureau Chief representing, JJCPA
Carol Biondi, At-Large Community Representative, JJCC
Patricia Soung, Children's Defense Fund (16-4208)

Sharon Harada, Probation Dept. Bureau Chief, Carol Biondi, At Large Community Representative, and Patricia Soung, Children's Defense Fund, addressed the Oversight Board on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) Fund, and presented a PowerPoint presentation in response to the questions prepared by the Working Group beforehand. Ms. Harada highlighted the three JJCPA Initiatives as follows: Enhanced Mental Health Services; Enhanced Services to High Risk Youth, and Enhanced Services for School and Community Based Services.

Ms. Biondi stressed the importance of allocating unused dollars in the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) Fund to community based organizations (CBOs) and programs, and indicated that there is approximately \$59 million being held in the fund, and out of that amount \$21 million has been allocated, the balance has not. Ms. Biondi described a few of the successful programs that remain unfunded. Ms. Harada confirmed that there are a portion of funds which have been received and allocated, and a portion which remains unspent.

Ms. Soung explained the lack of data collection relative to what youth require in order to keep them out of the criminal justice system. Ms. Soung informed what types of programs serve as the best investment in the youth, and that the lack of data reporting required by the State does not provide enough information to make an appropriate analysis. Ms. Soung informed the Oversight Group that a small committee was recently

formed in order to evaluate the collection of data, both quantitative and qualitative, so that outcomes can be reliably accessed. Ms. Soung stressed the importance of the formation of a stakeholder advisory body which includes decision making, transparency and accountability.

Member Holt requested Ms. Biondi to speak to possible solutions relative to how JJCC can be made a more viable entity. Ms. Biondi informed that JJCC should be truly engaged within the community so that they have a sense of what programs are available and are practical. Also, JJCC needs to have members that are true partners with the Probation Department as well as the community, and JJCPA needs to have the balance of the remaining monies aligned with community programs and distributed accordingly. In addition, Ms. Soung highlighted successful programs within Ventura and San Diego Counties.

Ms. Harada, Ms. Soung, and Ms. Biondi answered additional questions posed by the Working Group.

After discussion, Vice Chair Johnson requested that Ms. Biondi's opening comments be included in the Minutes.

Attachments: [Questions for Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council](#)
[Carol Biondi Statement](#)
[Presentation for JJCPA](#)

11. Presentation by Kim McGill, Organizer for Youth Justice Coalition. (16-4209)

Kim McGill, Organizer for Youth Justice Coalition (YJC), along with other members of YJC provided background on the creation of the Youth Justice Coalition and discussed the Coalition's platform. The YJC Group presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining recommendations for the proposed Probation Oversight Commission as follows: Composition; Balance, Powers; Vision, Policies; Accountability, Research Data Transparency and Evaluation; Budget and Contracting; Commission Staffing and Support; and Future Vision.

The YJC Group stressed the importance of having an Ombudsman separate from the Probation Department in order to remain independent and impartial, and encouraged the creation of a Youth Development Department rather than simply separating the adult and juvenile functions within the Probation Department. The presentation also included various statistics comparing Los Angeles to other major cities' spending in regards

to Probation and the successful programs for which money is being spent.

The YJC Group provided, in part, the following recommendations: Redirect 5% of the Los Angeles County law enforcement to fund 70 youth centers, 650 peacebuilders (intervention workers) in schools and communities, and 35,000 County funded youth jobs; expand resources at under-utilized County Parks and Recreation facilities by enabling community based organizations to access and manage youth development centers; and facilitate joint use agreements with local school districts to create community schools that serve as youth development centers after school, on weekends, during the holidays and in summer months.

In addition to Kim McGill, the following individuals addressed the Oversight Board and provided their experience within the Probation system, and answered questions posed by the Oversight Board: Juan Pena; Michale Wilson, Diwaine Smith, Gloria Gonzales, Marbella Munoz; and Jocelyn Mateo.

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

12. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Probation Oversight Working Group subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-2018)

Vice Chair Johnson requested that Commission Staff schedule a follow-up presentation by Inspector General Max Huntsman and to change the time of the meeting on November 9, 2016 to begin earlier due to the length of time needed to work through the Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

13. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Working Group on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Working Group. (16-3289)

There was none.

14. Adjournment of the Meeting of Wednesday, October 12, 2016. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 374 at 12:00 p.m. (16-4210)

On motion of Member Holt, seconded by Member Osuna, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held October 12, 2016 in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 374, at 12:30 p.m.